



... SECOND ...

ANNUAL REPORT,

(1894,)

— ON —

The Urban District

OF

Stratford-upon-Avon,

— BY —

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

(DR. THOMSON.)

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STRATFORD-ON-AVON :

H. COX, PRINTER AND STATIONER, 27, HIGH STREET.

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1895.



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF  
THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
TO  
THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF  
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON.

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MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

The following, which I have the honour to lay before you is the Annual Report of the health of the Borough for the year 1894, and is the 2nd Annual Report I have made as your Medical Officer of Health.

**Area of the Borough** 3,865 acres.

Total Rateable Value £34 738.

Population (Census 1891) 8,318.

**Population.**—I estimate the population for the mid 1894 year 1894 as being 8,406, this constituting an increase on the census population of 1891. If no migration from the Borough into the Borough occurred, the preponderance of births over deaths would effect a greater increase in population than that reckoned in my estimate.

**Inhabited Houses.**—The number of these estimated in January 1893, was—inhabited 1,810, uninhabited 89, which is about 4·6 persons per inhabited house.

**Death Rate.**—There have been 154 deaths in the Borough in the year (70 male, 84 female) and from these it is necessary to deduct 20 deaths of persons belonging outside the town, and to

add two deaths which occurred among patients removed to the Sanatorium, which is outside the Borough boundary. This gives a corrected number from which to derive the Death Rate of 136.

The Death Rate, thus corrected, is 16·1 per 1000 of population, which figure represents very nearly the average Death Rate in the Urban Districts of Warwickshire, and also is, I think, a fraction under an average Death Rate for Stratford. A reference to the Table which follows shows the great variation from year to year, which occurs in the Death Rate of the Borough, owing to the limited number on which the calculation is based.

**Birth Rate.**—182 children were born in the year, (79 male, 103 female) consequently the Birth Rate is 21·6, which is very low.

**Infantile Mortality.**—28 deaths occurred in children under one year of age, and this, combined with a low birth rate, makes the Infantile Death Rate to be 153 per 1000 Births.

**Zymotic Death Rate.**—·7 per 1000. There were seven deaths from Zymotic Disease, of which one was from Typhus Fever, one from Enteric Fever, (a Rural case) two from Scarlet Fever, two from Erysipelas, and one from Measles.

A TABLE giving the Death-rate, Birth-rate, Zymotic Death-rate and the Infantile Mortality, from 1884 to 1894.

YEAR.	1884	1885	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894
No. of Deaths ...	185	144	122	115	144	145	162	149	177	156	154
Death-rate ...	20·4	14·4	13·2	12·6	14·8	14·3	18·4	18·03	* 21·07	16·7	16·1
No. of Births ...	252	225	245	220	219	214	187	232	195	236	182
Birth-rate ...	31·2	26·3	28·9	25·7	25·3	24·5	21·2	27·8	23·3	28·1	21·6
Deaths from Zymotic Diseases ...	18	8	1	8	7	4	12	7	15	8	7
Zymotic death rate ...	2·1	·9	·1	·9	·8	·4	·3	·8	1·6	·9	·7
Deaths of Infants ...	31	26	20	19	22	27	29	22	27	19	28
Infantile Mortality ...	122	115	81	86	100	126	155	94	138	80·5	153

\* Uncorrected.

## STATEMENT OF MORTALITY AND SICKNESS.

The Birth and Mortality Rates having been dwelt upon, I will now discuss the contents of Tables A. and B., containing as they do, the causes of deaths, and the number of cases of Infectious Disease notified in the year.

**Smallpox.**—The Borough has happily been free in 1894, from this disease. During the year care has been taken to maintain Bellevue Hospital in a state ready to receive any Smallpox case which might occur, thus no time would have been lost in getting the place ready, had the occasion arisen.

## SCARLET FEVER.

During 1894 the disease was prevalent in the Borough throughout the year with the exception of the early autumn. The epidemic was mild in character and doubtless all cases did not come under medical supervision. I find, on reference to Annual Reports made before and since the adoption of the Infectious Diseases (notification) Act 1889, that the town has never been free from this zymotic since an epidemic which occurred in 1887, and which attacked 99 families.

In 1890 the disease occurred in Seven families.

In 1891 Eleven families were attacked (19 cases.)

In 1892 Twenty-two families were attacked (25 cases.)

In 1893 Eighteen families were attacked and a single case occurred also both at the Workhouse and Hospital (25 cases.)

# **(A) Table of Deaths**

during the Year 1894, in the Stratford-upon-Avon District, classified to DISEASES AGES, and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the pur- pose of these Statis- tics ; public institu- tions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.							MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING FIVE YEARS OF AGE.												DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.							TOTAL																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
	At all ages	under 1 year	1 & under 5	5 & under 15	15 & under 25	25 & under 65	65 & upwards	FEVERS												Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera	Erysipelas		Measles	Whooping Cough	Diarrhoea and Dysentery	Rheumatic Fever	Pyæmia	Ague	Phtisis	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy	Heart Disease	Injuries	All other Diseases																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
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The Borough.	121	25	6	11	5	37	37	under 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# **(B).** Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness

Coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1894, in the Stratford-upon-Avon Urban District; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics ; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.											NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREATMENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
	Census, 1891	Estimated to middle of 1894			1	2	3	4	5	6	FEVERS.				8	9	10	11	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
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State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District. Yes. Since when? January 1st, 1890. Besides the above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any that are notifiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingly. None. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated; and if not within the District, state where situated. Joint Hospital for Infectious Disease in Borough of Stratford-upon-Avon. Bellevue Hospital (for Smallpox.)



In 1894 the following Table shows the number of families in which the disease occurred and the number of cases :—

Month.	No. of Families.	No. of cases.	Sent to Hospital	Treated at Home.
January.				
February.	7	8	7	1
March.	8	11	11	
April.	24	29	26	3
May.	18	21	21	
June.	14	16	16	
July.	22	23	23	
August.	6	6	6	
September.	1	1	1	
October.				
November.	3	7	7	
December.	7	10	10	
Total.	110	132	128	4

The causes of the disease were derived from no special quarter of the town, nor was there evidence, except in two occasions that the disease was being spread by intercommunication between adjacent houses. These two exceptions were in College Lane and in Arden Terrace. In my opinion the cause of the prevalence of the disease was that owing to the general mild character of the complaint, cases occurred which never were brought under the notice of medical men, and which after a few days indisposition, continued to go at large and to attend school. In two instances cases were discovered in the desquamation stage which had not been notified, and in both instances those in charge of the patient were prosecuted and successfully so.

But I believe it to be possible for a child to have the disease without its parents knowledge, and I have not the slightest doubt that this occurred occasionally.

It is interesting to note that there is not any increase in the number of cases of Puerperal Fever in 1894, as compared with preceding years, and I think medical men are gradually coming to the opinion that Puerperal cases are not so liable to be infected as has been stated.

Disheartening as it is to endeavour to check an epidemic which may manifest itself so slightly as to be overlooked, there are several reasons for unceasing effort.

An important one is the danger of mild cases giving rise to severe ones. Another lies in the fact that every child who is tided over five years of age is less liable to contract the disease, and less liable to have it prove fatal if contracted.

And the fact that kidney disease in adult life is sometimes initiated by an attack of Scarlet Fever in childhood is again an important reason.

## DIPHThERIA.

Two cases of this disease have been reported in the year.

A signal event in connection with this disease, is the recent discovery of a means of treating it which promises to be far more effectual than any mode of treatment previously in use. This new method consists in the subcutaneous injection of the patient, with the serum (or liquid portion) of the blood of an animal which has by special treatment been rendered immune to the disease, the process being comparable to the vaccination for prevention of small-pox, by using lymph from calves. So far the results obtained by this method seem to admit of no other conclusion than that the mortality among cases treated is much less than in cases not inoculated with the serum.

The source of serum is derived from horses previously shown to be free from Glanders and Tuberculosis; but in my opinion, if the necessary funds were available, the establishment of a herd of ponies drafted from the New Forest, or Exmoor, would furnish a more satisfactory source of supply, and the utilization of the least valuable and worst formed of these animals would help to improve the breed.

### MEMBRANOUS CROUP.

No cases of this disease have been notified.

### TYPHUS FEVER.

In June, a case of this occurred in the Shipston Road and proved rapidly fatal. Immediately preceding this case a death occurred in the same house of a patient who in the opinion of the physician in attendance presented very much the same symptoms as did the second case.

There was no history of infection from a pre-existing typhus patient, and if it is possible for this disease to develop simply from devitalising predisposing causes, the conditions were suitable for this spontaneous effect to take place.

### ENTERIC FEVER.

In May, a case occurred in a child in Meer street, and in the same month a case tho in Workhouse which had been removed from Henley-in-Arden died of this disease.

In December, a woman employed at the Hospital contracted the disease.

With reference to the prevention of the spread of this disease, there is no doubt that to have cases treated at home is conducive to the causation of further cases. The usual and only practicable caution given to friends of a Typhoid Fever patient treated at home, is to add a disinfectant to excreta, and to bury these in such garden ground as may be available.

To carry out these directions faithfully, when a w. c. is close at hand, requires a degree of conscientiousness not always

found. And even if such directions are carefully observed, the danger of pollution of adjacent wells is not done away with, and the necessary washings of bed-pans remain as a source of danger if these enter the town sewers.

As Dr. Barwise (M.O.H. for Derbyshire) points out, the casual disinfection of enteric excreta is worse than useless, as leading to a false idea of security; and it may be taken for granted that in the majority of cases where a Typhoid patient is treated at home, the disinfection of the excreta is insufficient.

### ERYSIPELAS.

Twelve cases were reported in the year, of which two proved fatal.

### DIARRHŒA AND DYSENTERY.

In no case have these diseases been returned as the primary cause of death, a condition of affairs reflecting creditably on the sanitary condition of the town, and on the management of infants among the working classes.

### INFLUENZA.

One death from Influenza occurred in the year.

### CANCER.

Eight deaths were returned as due to Cancer.

### PHTHISIS.

Nineteen deaths have occurred from Phthisis. In my Report for 1893, I referred to the fact that it is practically impossible to prevent the sale of tubercular meat unless the slaughtering of cattle is carried out in a public abattoir, under efficient veterinary inspection. Even under such circumstances, meat from cattle showing, as they frequently do, evidence of tubercle inglands, could not be condemned wholesale without discrimination between those beasts locally affected and those generally so. In another direction, the infection of human beings, children especially, with tuberculosis through milk might be

guarded against by periodic veterinary inspection of dairy cattle. Reference to a paragraph later on, in this report, under the heading "Dairies and Cowsheds" will show that the town milk supply is satisfactory, but one can readily imagine the extent to which a tubercular cow can spread the germs of abdominal phthisis in children.

### ACTION TAKEN TO PREVENT SPREAD OF DISEASE.

Owing to the prevalence of Scarlet Fever in the year it was thought advisable to close the Elementary Public Schools as follows, the School at Shottery being the only one in the Borough not included:—

School.	Closed.	Re-opened.	Disease prevalent.
The National School	April 24th	June 2nd.	Scarlet Fever.
The Board School	" 20th	"	" "
St. Gregory's School	" 20th	"	" "
The National School	July 27th	Sept 10th.	" "
The Board School	"	"	" "
St Gregory's School	"	"	" "

In both instances of closing these three Schools the result on the number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified was almost immediately noticeable. It is often said that if children congregate out of doors, there is just the same risk of disseminating infectious disease as if they were assembled in School. Such however is not the case, as out of doors they are not in such close proximity as in School, and they are not breathing air, contaminated by each other, to the same extent.

At the time of the second closing of the Schools the effort made to check the epidemic was seconded by the closing of the Sunday Schools. I have to thank those gentlemen who acceded to my request to close these Sunday Schools, the



more so since in some cases they were doubtfully convinced of the necessity to do so. There is no doubt in my mind that the result obtained justified the means. In fact the epidemic stopped abruptly (*vide* Scarlet Fever) in August.

While the schools were closed the second time, the distribution of books from the Parish Library was suspended, another valuable means of checking the spread of disease.

Should the Borough in the future possess a Free Public Library I venture to suggest as some of its regulations that any one known to take books home to an infected house be disqualified from having books out of the Library; and also that during an epidemic of infectious disease the Library be temporarily closed.

The movement of patients into Hospital in the year has, in all cases, been effected most expeditiously. Notification of disease has been carried out as a rule simultaneously with the discovery of it, without the slightest loss of time, and for this, and for the hearty co-operation I have always met with in Sanitary work, I have to thank my medical colleagues in the town.

Disinfection of infected houses has been thoroughly carried out where necessary by your Sanitary Inspector and the infrequency of second cases occurring in a family gives evidence to this effect.

#### SANITARY WORK COMPLETED, CONTEMPLATED AND REQUIRED.

**Water Supply.**—During the year the work of examining water suspected to be impure has been carried out in every instance when deemed necessary. It will be highly conducive to the health of the town, when the water supply of houses is uniformly derived from the Borough Waterworks. The reason for this lies in the fact that however pure a house well may be, there is no possibility of ensuring the continuance of such purity: for although the owner of a well may carefully avoid allowing any soakage to occur on his own premises, and may carefully guard against any leakage from drains into the soil, he has no control over the property adjoining his own, and it is well known what a wide area a well may derive soakage from.



From time to time I have visited the gathering ground of the waterworks and have satisfied myself of the non-existence of conditions which might lead to depreciation of the purity of the water.

**Canal Boats.**—Reference to Table C. will show the result of work done by the Inspector of Canal Boats.

**Dairies and Milkshops.**—In March, 1894, I made a general inspection of the Dairies and Cowsheds in the Borough and reported as follows :

I found that the cattle were housed in a generally primitive manner, but not so as to be calculated to be injurious to their health. The cows seen by me appeared healthy and as a rule young.

The dairies seen by me were, generally speaking, unsatisfactory, and not so as to comply with the requirements of "The Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders of 1895," in respect of cleanliness of milk vessels and protection of milk from contamination. I suggested that your authority should insist on proper dairies being provided, not to be used for other purposes, and to be kept clean. The existing conditions objected to were the storage of milk in living rooms, or near to middens, and the want of cleanliness in some cases. I also mentioned as an objection the presence of gas meters in any place used for storing milk.

It is only proper to say that a very small quantity of milk is stored as compared with what goes direct from the milkman to his customers.

**Bakehouses.**—These are visited from time to time, and may be said to comply fairly with the requirements of the law relating to them.

## HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACT, 1890.

Proceeding under this Act, I gave evidence in the course of the year as to the condition of No. 1 Sidney Court, Sheep street, and an order was made for closing. Later on the agent for the property drew up a statement of work which he proposed to have done, in order to render the premises habitable, but as this work, if carried out would not have been sufficient to put the house in a reasonable sanitary state, he was advised that it was doubtful if permission to occupy would be granted unless entire reconstruction was entered upon. The fact of the house being a back-to-back one rendered lighting and ventilation almost impracticable.

## SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

It might be an advantage if an independent official in the employment of the County Council had the duty of the purchase of samples of food and drugs for analysis: one reason being that a local Sanitary Inspector is always well known, and his object in purchase evident, and another reason being that it is most essential that no friction should arise between a Sanitary Inspector and those from whom he depends for information necessary to carry out his sanitary work properly.

**Vaccination.**—The efficiency with which Vaccination is carried out in the Borough will be seen by reference to the table drawn up by the Vaccination Officer.

## UNSOUND MEAT, ETC.

During the year I have given my services where required in inspection of animal food, the cases of most frequent occurrence being where swine have been slaughtered summarily owing to some accident having befallen them.

Previously in this Report I have referred to the advantages of a public abbatoir, and I may here say that apart from the advantages of cleanliness and supervision obtainable by the use of a public abbatoir, the number of cattle driven through the streets

would be lessened and also the owner of a few pigs would have the advantage of being able to use a commodious and convenient place for pig slaughtering: at present such a pig-owner must often find difficulty in carrying out slaughtering operations.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR THOMSON, M.B. Ed. D.P.H. CAMB.,

Fellow (ord.) British Inst. Public Health.

M.O.H. for the Urban and Rural Districts of Stratford-on-Avon,  
and for the Rural District of Marston Sicca.

*6 Payton Street,  
Stratford-on-Avon.*

## APPENDIX A.

### THE JOINT HOSPITAL FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

This Hospital for the isolation of Infectious Disease (other than Small-pox) from the Borough of Stratford-on-Avon, and the Rural Districts of Stratford-on-Avon and Marston Sicca was completed in November 1894.

The buildings were designed by Mr. Campbell, A.M.I.C.E. Borough Surveyor of Stratford-on-Avon, in accordance with the general instructions received from a Joint Committee of members of the authorities constructing the Hospital, and the institution having been in full use for more than three months is found to serve its purpose in a most satisfactory manner, both with regard to the facility afforded in carrying out its administration, and also to the comfort and convenience given to patients and nurses, by the heating, lighting, and ventilation methods adopted. The severe frosts of January and February, have given a crucial test as regards heating and ventilation, and the results have been most gratifying.

The Buildings consist of:—

(1) A Scarlet Fever Pavilion containing two wards, separated by a nurses room, from which both may be overlooked through inspection windows. Capacity of each ward is 12,168 cubic feet and 936 superficial feet of floor space, thus giving each patient more than 2,000 cubic feet and more than 150 superficial feet of floor space, when the wards contain the number of persons for which they were designed, namely 6 patients per ward.

(2) A Diphtheria Block of two wards with a nurses room between as in the Scarlet Fever Block.

(3) A Block containing a Typhoid Fever ward and a quarantine or private ward. A special feature of this block is that the entrance to the quarantine ward opens under a verandah at the back, and has no direct communication either with the nurses room or with the Typhoid ward.

The Blocks Nos. 2 and 3 are intended to accommodate four patients each—the cubic capacity given to each patient being 2,700 feet and the floor space being 216 superficial feet.

(4) An administrative Block containing a sitting-room, kitchens and offices, surgery, and four bedrooms.

(5) A Block containing laundry and drying rooms, discharge room, coal shed, and a disinfecter, (Washington Lyon.) Also a mortuary.

These buildings are disposed in three sides of a quadrilateral, and are all properly isolated from each other and from the boundary fence. The area occupied is  $1\frac{3}{4}$  acres.

Each ward has a wing appended containing a bath room, lavatory and w.c., and the two smaller ward blocks are furnished with double verandahs, an inner verandah completely protected from the weather, and an outer verandah in which, in fine weather convalescents may sit in the shade.

The wards are lighted from both sides.

The methods adopted for ventilation are:—

Double sash windows which may be made to admit air on the Hinckes Bird principle: Hopper fanlights over all ward windows: inlet gratings beneath each bed. Air flows between the smoke flues in each ward. Exit is given to foul air by vertical shafts through the roof, and also by the up draught of the shafts over the gas jets lighting the wards.

The heating of the wards is effected by a double Shorland's Manchester warm air grate in each ward.

The hot water apparatus which consists of multitubular gas boilers, is so placed as to aid in warming the passages and lavatories.

The bathing apparatus consists of a wheel bath for each ward which can be used in the bath room, or filled there and wheeled into the ward.

The floors are of narrow pitch pine, waxed and polished. The walls are built hollow and finished internally with adaman-tine cement and coloured in Duresco distemper.

All wards communicate with the administration Block by means of electric bells.

The total cost has been as follows:—Buildings £3,650, main-drainage, water and gas mains £500, roads £150, fencing £270, laying out and planting grounds £40, furniture £500, disinfectors and laundry £300, sundries £250. Total £5,640.

It may be mentioned that the furniture includes beds and bedding sufficient to furnish the Hospital with accommodation for over 30 patients.



## (C.) Stratford-upon-Avon Urban Sanitary Authority.

Summary of Sanitary Work done in the Inspector of Nuisance's Department during the year ending December 1894.

				Inspections and observations made	Formal Notices by Authority.	Nuisances Abated after Notice.	
Dwelling Houses and Schools.	{	Foul Conditions	... ..	17	17	17	
		Structural Defects	... ..	13	13	13	
		Overcrowding...	.. ...	4	4	4	
		Unfit for Habitation <i>See M.O.H. Report</i>					
	Lodging Houses <i>Regularly Inspected</i>						
	Dairies and Milkshops			... ..	36	—	—
	Cow Sheds			... ..	41	—	—
	Bakehouses			<i>See M.O.H. Report</i>			
	Slaughter Houses			<i>Regularly Inspected</i>			
	Canal Boats...			... ..	8	1	1
House Drainage	Ashpits and Privies			... ..	25	23	25
	Deposits of Refuse and Manure			... ..	6	6	6
	Water Closets...			... ..	44	31	44
	{	Defective Traps	... ..	25	21	25	
		No Disconnections	... ..	15	14	15	
		Other Faults	.. ...	23	20	25	
	Water Supply...			... ..	11	11	11
	Pigsties			... ..	3	3	3
	Animals improperly kept			.. ...	—	—	—
	Offensive Trades			... ..	—	—	—
	Smoke Nuisances			... ..	—	—	—
	Other Nuisances			... ..	7	7	7
	TOTALS				... ..	278	171

Seizures of Unwholesome Food ...	Nos.	—
Samples of Food taken for Analysis...	—	—
"    "    found Adulterated...	—	—
"    of Water taken for Analysis...	7	
"    "    condemned as un- fit for use ... ..	4	
NOTE.—Where an inspection or notice embraces more than one defect, it may be enumerated separately as regards each such defect.		
<b>PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.</b>		
Lots of Infected Bedding Stoved or Destroyed ... ..	13	
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease ... ..	112	
Schools ... ..	15	
Prosecutions for not Notifying Ex- istence of Infectious Disease ...	1	
Convictions ... ..	1	
Prosecutions for Exposure of In- fected Persons or Things ...	1	
Convictions ... ..	1	

JOHN BROOK,

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.



